

DARCI PHILLIPS

Oxford Scholar 2004

Degrees:

Vanderbilt University: B.E., Biomedical Engineering and Mathematics, 2003

University of Cambridge: M.S., Biotechnology, 2004

Research Area: Cardiology and Proteomics



Darci Phillips completed a Master's degree in Bioscience Enterprise at the University of Cambridge in 2004. As a Gates-Cambridge Scholar, Darci had the opportunity to visit biotechnology companies in the United Kingdom, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, and the United States to collect information for her dissertation, which focused on pharmacogenomics and the overall feasibility of personalized medicine. At Cambridge, Darci was elected to the Gates Council, selected as a finalist in Cambridge's £50K Business Competition and actively participated in various societies. Prior to that she studied Biomedical Engineering and Mathematics at Vanderbilt University, where she graduated *summa cum laude* and received highest honors for her thesis. At graduation she received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Biomedical Engineering Departmental Award. As a VU Engineering Scholar, Darci conducted research in pediatric cardiology where she developed a patent-pending occlusion device. Additionally, she explored the potential for optical spectroscopy to categorize liver tumor margins following radio-frequency ablation, a project for which she was awarded the Thomas G. Arnold Prize for undergraduate research. Outside the laboratory, Darci co-founded the Meals-on-Heels Organization and was active in student government, Tau Beta Pi, intramural athletics, the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and a science-tutoring program for local middle school students. As an undergraduate, she spent a semester abroad at St. Andrew's University in Scotland where she pursued her passion in 17th and 18th century art and joined the International Student Society to actively discuss issues of terrorism, political violence and conflict resolution. Darci has been selected for summer internships at the National Institutes of Health and Massachusetts General Hospital. Additionally, she has interned as a summer analyst at Goldman Sachs in London. An avid skydiver, she also enjoys marathon running, snow skiing and traveling. As an NIH-Oxford Scholar at Magdalen College, Darci serves on the MCR committee, volunteers with special needs children and regularly participates in athletic competitions. In her research, Darci uses a variety of imaging modalities and proteomic approaches to explore mouse models of cardiovascular disease with Mentors Robert Balaban and Stephan Neubauer. Ultimately, Darci "hopes to make a discovery that improves the methodology for treating heart failure."